Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 FDRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00 AGR-01 IO-13 HA-05 FRB-03 OPIC-03 /103 W

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R 310856Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4834

CONFIDENTIAL ACCRA 6146

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: EAID, GH

SUBJ: GENERAL AKUFFO REITERATES REQUEST FOR SPEEDY FOOD AID

REF: (A) ACCRA 6055 (B) STATE 184659

- 1. I ORALLY CONVEYED SUBSTANCE PARAGRAPHS ONE AND THREE OF REFTEL B TO GEN. AKUFFO ON JULY 28 IN HIS CASTLE OFFICE. I EMPHASIZED THAT DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND AID ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING GOG REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, POINTED OUT THAT IN GENERAL US FINANCIAL AID WOULD DEPEND ON ECONOMIC REFORMS UNDERTAKEN BY GOG AND THAT ASSESSMENT BY IMF TEAM DUE IN GHANA IN NEAR FUTURE WOULD ASSIST USG IN DETERMINING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE REFORMS. ALSO EXPRESSED OUR HOPE THAT GOG WOULD BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE IMF IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
- 2. GEN. AKUFFO TOOK NOTE OF THESE POINTS, ASSERTED THAT GOG WAS ALREADY IN PROCESS OF INSTITUTING ECONOMIC REFORMS AND SAID GOG LOOKED FORWARD TO VISIT OF IMF TEAM DUE IN ACCRA THE FOLLOWING WEEK.
- 3. AKUFFO THEN REITERNATED HIS HOPE, WHICH HE HAD ORIGINALLY EXPRESSED TO ME JUL 11 (ACCRA 5555), THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE US WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE TO GHANA EVEN BEFORE ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF COULD BE REACHED. HE ASKED THE CURRENT STATUS OF OUR ACTION ON THIS REQUEST.

4. IN RESPONSE I STATED THAT AID GHANA HAD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING, ALREADY DESPATCHED

FOOD EXPERTS TO THE NORTHERN AND UPPER REGIONS TO REVIEW THE CURRENT FOOD SITUATION THERE (ACCRA 6007). THEIR REPORT, WHICH WAS A NECESSARY PREREQUISITE TO ANY EMERGENCY FOOD AID, WAS EXPECTED MOMENTARILY. UPON ITS RECEIPT WE WOULD IMMEDIATELY SUBMIT IT TO WASHINGTON WITH OUR RECOMMENDATIONS. I HOPED THAT THE USG WOULD BE ABLE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE.

5. AKUFFO APPEARED SATISFIED THAT ACTION WAS ALREADY UNDERWAY AND AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE USG WOULD BE ABLE TO COME TO GHANA'S ASSISTANCE SPEEDILY WITH FOOD AID IN THIS CRITICAL PERIOD. HOLMES

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